

ABSOLUTE RATING: Average

IMPROVEMENT RATING: Average

Number of districts with students like ours: 12.

The absolute ratings for those districts ranged from below average to good. For improvement ratings, the range was from below average to good.

Definitions of District Rating Terms

Excellent- District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

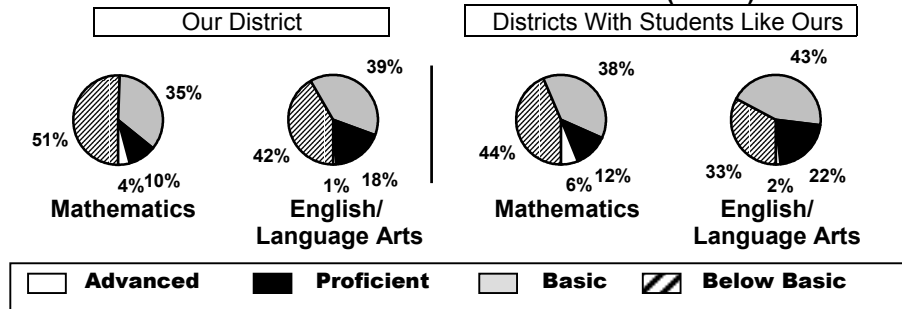
Good- District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average- District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average- District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory- District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Percent of Seniors Passing the Exit Exam	Percent of Seniors Qualifying for LIFE Scholarships	Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above on the PACT	
			ELA	Math
All Students	92.0%	17.8%	58.2%	49.6%
Students with disabilities other than Speech	63.2%	0.0%	25.8%	18.9%
Students without disabilities	93.7%	19.1%	64.8%	55.5%
Gender				
Male	92.6%	16.7%	51.6%	47%
Female	90.8%	18.7%	66.2%	52.8%
Ethnic Group				
African-American	86.5%	5.6%	47.7%	37.9%
Hispanic	100.0%	N/A	63.3%	N/A
White	96.3%	27.7%	73.1%	65.2%
Other	100.0%	100.0%	N/A	N/A
Lunch Status				
Free/ Reduced-Price Lunch	87.2%	4.1%	49.5%	39.9%
Pay for Lunch	94.8%	26.2%	77.3%	69.8%

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	First-time Examinees		
	1999	2000	2001
Our district			
Passed all 3 subtests	55.7%	58.6%	66.4%
Passed 2 subtests	20.6%	19.2%	17.8%
Passed 1 subtest	13.0%	14.7%	10.2%
Passed no subtest	10.7%	7.5%	5.6%
Districts with students like ours			
Passed all 3 subtests	62.0%	61.6%	63.5%
Passed 2 subtests	19.8%	19.3%	19.3%
Passed 1 subtest	11.7%	12.2%	10.5%
Passed no subtest	6.5%	6.9%	6.7%

LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions

	Eligible	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
Our District	17.8%	51.7%	18.7%
Districts Like Ours	15.7%	44.8%	16.7%

College Admissions Tests: Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

	SAT Verbal		SAT Math		SAT Total		ACT English		ACT Math		ACT Reading		ACT Science		ACT Total	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
District	440	450	450	457	890	907	17.9	17.7	19.0	18.7	18.5	18.8	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.6
State	484	486	482	488	966	974	18.7	18.8	19.2	19.3	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.3
Nation	505	506	514	514	1019	1020	20.5	20.5	20.7	20.7	21.4	21.3	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0

These tests were administered to samples of students:

Terra Nova Test: A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

National Assessment of Education Progress : A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

DISTRICT PROFILE

INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
DISTRICT				
• Dollars per student	\$6,554	N/A	\$6,582	\$6,464
• Prime instructional time	88.6%	Up from 88.5%	89.9%	89.4%
• Student-teacher ratio	21.1 to 1	N/A	19.1 to 1	20.2 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.9%	N/A	1%	0.6%
STUDENTS (n=11,504)				
• Advanced placement/ int'l baccalaureate program exam success ratio	50.8%	N/A	37.8%	43.8%
• Attendance Rate	95%	No change	96%	95.7%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	6.2%	N/A	6.4%	5.8%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	5.9%	N/A	5.8%	4.5%
• Retention rate	7.6%	Up from 6.2%	7.2%	6.0%
TEACHERS (n=846)				
• Professional development days per teacher	8.6 Days	Up from 7.7	7.6 Days	7.8 Days
• Attendance rate	95.1%	Up from 94.8%	95.1%	95.2%
• Advanced Degrees	43%	Down from 44.3%	41.9%	44.4%
• Continuing contracts	80.1%	Down from 80.8%	80.4%	81.4%
• Out-of-field permits	3.2%	Up from 2.9%	2.6%	2.2%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	90.6%	Down from 91.6%	89.1%	89.5%
• Average salary	\$36,660	Up 3.9%	\$35,917	\$37,143

DISTRICT FACTS

DISTRICT				
• Annual dropout rate	3.3%	Down from 5.4%	2.8%	2.9%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	53.3%	N/A	51%	50.9%
• Superintendent's years in the district	2	N/A	8.5	3.5
• Parent conferences	95.4%	N/A	81.5%	81.0%
• Opportunities in the arts	Good	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	21	No change	7	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	1	N/A	0	0
• Portable classrooms	7.6%	N/A	8.6%	6.5%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	97.1%	Down from 97.5%	97.1%	97.5%
• Average administrative salary	\$62,688	Up 5.7%	\$64,168	\$64,098
STUDENTS				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Percent of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Suspensions and expulsions	257	N/A	133	100
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	10.8%	Down from 10.9%	8.6%	10.5%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	14.6%	Up from 12.9%	9.7%	10.5%

Darlington School District
P. O. Box 1117
Darlington, SC 29540

Grades K-12

Enrollment: 11,504 Students

Superintendent Dr. Rainey H. Knight 843-398-5200

Board Chair Dr. Allen McCutchen 843-332-2852

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual District Report Card	2001
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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Darlington County School District serves approximately 11,000 students in grades K-12. We offer a well-rounded program of services that meet the needs of all children: eighteen traditional schools, one magnet high school, two magnet elementary schools, one alternative program, two career centers, two gifted and talented centers, and a county-wide adult education program.

The 2000-01 school year gave us a number of landmarks and initiatives to celebrate.

Scores on the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test increased across the board. The Board of Education approved a \$30 million plan to provide much-needed basic improvements to school buildings and facilities. Four district teachers earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Hartsville High School teacher Pat Hewitt was named the National Physical Educator of the Year. Cpl. Angel Tubbs was named the South Carolina School Resource Officer of the Year. The district won nine awards from the SC Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association, including the association's top award. Graduates from the class of 2001 earned just short of \$4.2 million in college scholarships. Two existing elementary schools were converted to magnet schools (math/science and the arts) to offer additional educational options for parents.

The Darlington County School District has demonstrated its commitment to the community. The first State of the Schools luncheon provided feedback on what is good about our schools. The district's partnership with The Byerly Foundation and The Center for Leadership in School Reform provides opportunities for educators to reinvent the way that we do business in order to meet the challenges of the Twenty-First Century.

South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at

www.myschools.com